

community in the year of 1915. He graduated from that community's high school in 1932. Thereafter, he entered West Point in 1933, graduated, and was assigned to B-17 fighter group. He was the first Army officer to fly the Boeing Flying Fortress in the Far East.

At the time of his early demise on December 10 of 1941, Colin Kelly was survived by his wife and his young son, Colin P. Kelly, III.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we are indebted to our friend and colleague for bringing this legislation forward. I know that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) is here on the floor and will wish to make some comments, but he has our gratitude and our admiration in making this effort to identify a gentleman who has done his Nation, his community, and his family so much good, and we appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH). Not only have we worked together on these initiatives, I still remain hopeful that we are going to work together and find a way to provide some modernization for our postal services. I want to thank him for his efforts legislatively leading this Chamber in that direction.

Let me say that in terms of the bill in front of us, I rise in support of H.R. 1666, authored by my friend and colleague from the great State of Florida (Mr. BOYD). It honors a gentleman who is a true American hero, someone who faced adversity, found himself and stood and provided the leadership that was required, sacrificing himself in so many ways to help those members of his crew. We are going to hear more about this story of Colin P. Kelly, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD), the prime sponsor and author of this bill and a member of my caucus and someone who wants to bring this story and make it live in the naming of this postal facility in Madison, Florida.

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), my friend and the ranking member of the subcommittee; and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for shepherding this legislation to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak in support of this legislation, which I introduced to honor a fellow North Floridian who earned the distinction of becoming World War II's first hero. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1666 would designate the post office building in Madison, Florida, the Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. Post Office.

Colin Kelly was born in Monticello, Florida, my hometown, on July 11,

1915, as the chairman said. He was raised in Madison, Florida, where he attended Madison High School, receiving his diploma in 1932. The following summer, young Colin accepted an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. After graduating in 1937, he was assigned to the Army Air Corps flight school and became a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress pilot.

At the outbreak of World War II, Captain Kelly, along with several other B-17 crews, was stationed at Clark Field in the Philippines. Once his unit was deployed to Clark Field, he became the first Army officer to fly the Boeing Flying Fortress in the Far East.

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Captain Kelly and his crew received orders to attack the Japanese invasion fleet that was threatening the Philippines. After completing their bombing run, Captain Kelly's plane was attacked by two Japanese fighters and was badly damaged while returning to Clark Field.

Realizing that his plane would not make it back to base, Captain Kelly gave the order to abandon the aircraft, but he remained at the controls to maintain the plane's altitude so his crew could safely bail out. Because of his heroic efforts, because of Captain Kelly's heroic efforts, six of his crewmen survived. Unfortunately, this courageous act meant that he did not have time to bail out himself, and he went down with his plane and was killed in the line of duty on December 10, 1941.

At that time, America was experiencing the attack at Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of World War II and was in search of an American hero. Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. became that first American hero of World War II.

According to Major Kenneth Gantz in a memo to General William Hall dated November 21, 1945, Kelly became a hero by circumstances at a time when his country desperately needed a hero. In recognition of his bravery and honor, President Roosevelt awarded Captain Kelly the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for his actions; and many popular publications of the day highlighted his heroism. Because of this, again, he is often considered America's first hero of World War II.

Captain Kelly is survived by one son, Colin P. "Corky" Kelly, III. In 1956 Colin Kelly, III received an appointment to West Point, was finished there, became an Army officer, finished a stellar career in the Army and currently serves in the ministry in New Mexico. His sister, Captain Colin P. Kelly Jr.'s sister, is surviving in Madison today, and she and her children are personal friends of this Member.

Captain Kelly's courage and sacrifice in the line of duty stands as a lasting example for the citizens of Madison County and for all Americans. He deserves both the respect and admiration

of everyone for his dedication to our country. The naming of the post office in his hometown of Madison as the Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. Post Office will be a wonderful and lasting tribute to this patriot, his family, and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this American hero, and I urge passage of H.R. 1666.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, fully and enthusiastically supporting this bill, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, there is little I can add to the sponsor's very eloquent words, but again I would just like to express our appreciation to him for helping this House today in recognizing an extraordinary man with this very, very due and owing honor. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1666.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 7 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 7 p.m.

□ 1900

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 7 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 8162(c)(3) of Public Law 106-79, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission:

Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas,
Mr. MORAN of Kansas,
Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and
Mr. BOSWELL of Iowa.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair